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4 February 1958

AD HOC SUBCOMMITTEE FOR GEOGRAPHY

Review of [REDACTED] of a Geographical 25X1C
Exchange with the USSR

1. Background

Geography in the Soviet Union commands a very high position. Academic and applied work in geography are very closely related and utilized to the maximum by the government in the development of its economic and military programs. Geographers participate in planning at all levels, both urban and rural. The broad expanse of the USSR has enabled Soviet geographers to engage in research and field work ranging from environmental conditions affecting Northern Sea Route operations to desert irrigation in Central Asia and New Lands agriculture. Intensive work in systematic geography has given them a wealth of knowledge in soil science and climatology. Geographers are participating in the large-scale Soviet mapping program both as members of the field mapping teams and in performing high-level cartographic work at the various institutes.

The magnitude and significance of geographic activity in the USSR is reflected in the large number of practicing geographers and the large number of institutions at which intensive training and geographic work is being carried on. Of 34 universities in the Soviet Union, 28 have some program in geography, mostly in separate geographical faculties. The largest of these, the Geography Faculty of the University of Moscow, occupies six stories in the new university building and has about a hundred rooms for laboratories, offices, workrooms, and a staff of 300 professors, docents, and assistants. There are 1,000 full-time day students in the five-year geography course, 817 evening students, and 55 graduate students. The Geography Faculty is composed of 14 departments: physical geography of the USSR, economic geography of the USSR, polar geography, soil geography, physical geography of foreign countries, economic geography of the bloc countries, economic geography of capitalist countries, general geography, geomorphology, hydrology of the land, oceanography, climatology and meteorology, biogeography, and geodesy and cartography. Their contract research program includes: (1) Regionalization of the Soviet Union for Gosplan; (2) Evaluation of land resources for the Ministry of Agriculture; and (3) Snow and ice investigations in connection with the International Geophysical Year.

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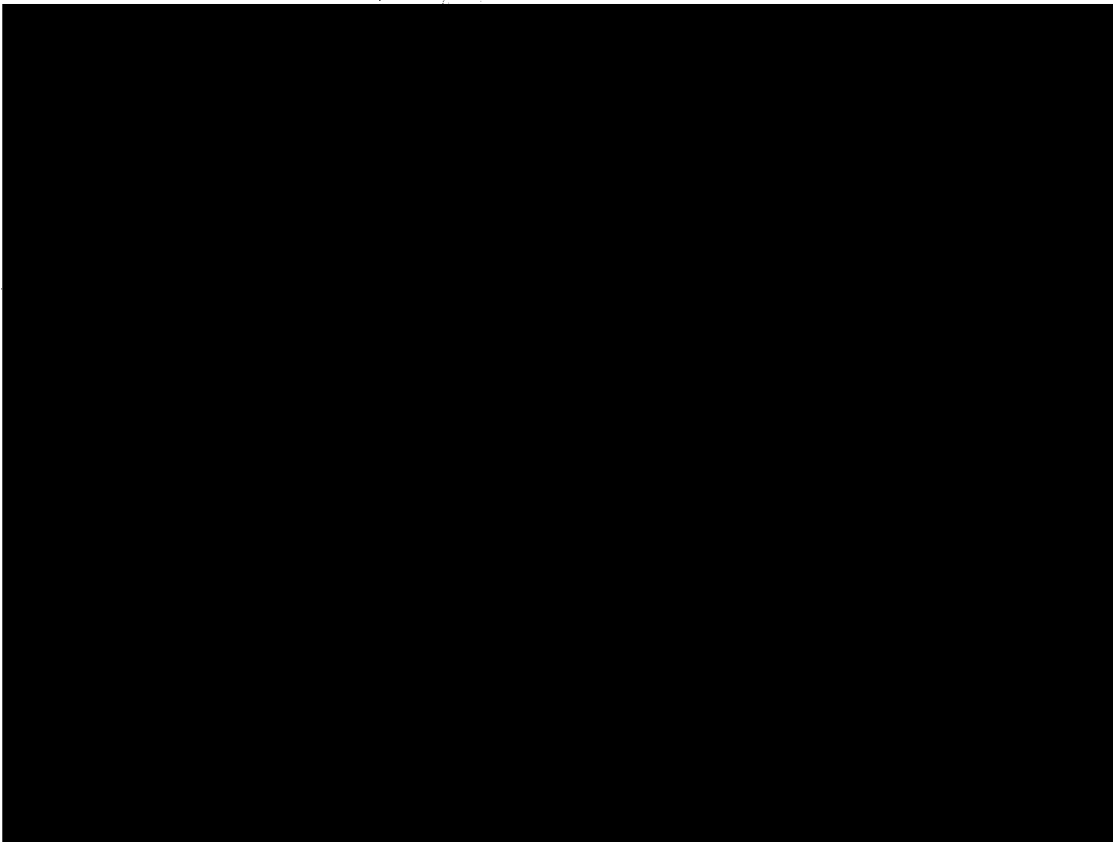
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The Institute of Geography of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR has a staff of about 300 engaged in full-time research. The Institute maintains four field stations: one near Moscow, one in the northern Urals, one on Novaya Zemlya, and one in the Tian'-Shan'. It also has a large publications program and conducts most international contacts for the procurement of all U.S. geographic publications, as well as those of other countries. In addition, there is the Institute of Scientific Information and the All-Union Geographical Society, both of which have intensive programs.

Individual Soviet geographers are found in numerous responsible positions of government work. For example, S. A. Striganov, the present Charge of the Soviet Embassy in Washington, is a geographer by training. S. A. Kovalov is a member of the committee formulating plans for the new Soviet census.

II. 

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A. [REDACTED]

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In examining the essential ingredients of the exchange that would lead to a potential [REDACTED] the following items seem to have some significance:

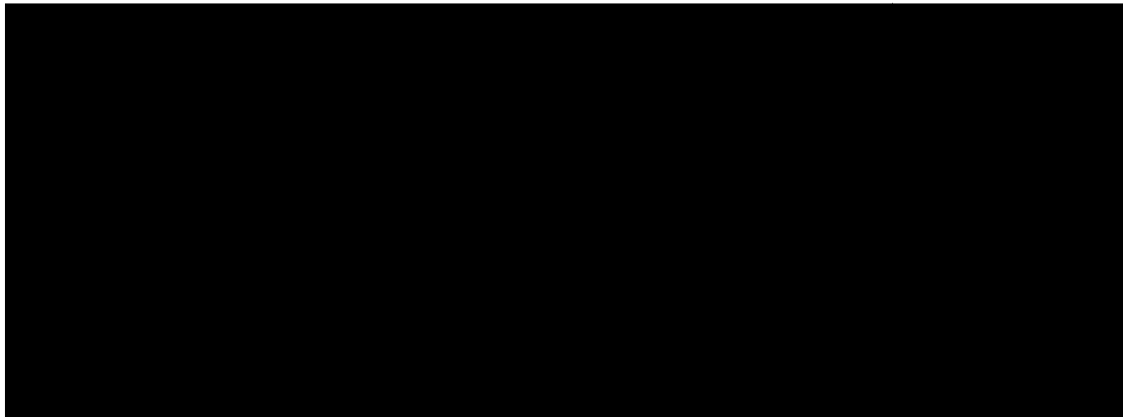
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B. Potential Soviet Gains

1. The Soviet geographers, in visiting normally denied areas of interest in the United States, would in essence be revisiting those areas which could have been already systematically covered by Soviet-affiliated travelers. Their observations would be confirmations of reports made by other observers.

2. Even though the Soviet geographers have thus far expressed an interest in TVA, dry-land agriculture, and other public-works projects, their observation of other areas through extended travel could lead to the identification and selection of targets for further exploitation in this country. By and large, we feel that USSR observations would be confirmation of written materials which they have received in great quantities and in wide coverage. They would have the opportunity of close examination of U.S. developments in various fields of applied geographic research.

3. They would have the opportunity to develop professional contact with a great number of American geographers, especially if their visit coincides with the national meetings of the Association of American Geographers. Points of contact would thus be established for future exchange of published materials and information. Discussions with American geographers would yield little information of value not contained in published sources.

4. The Soviets would undoubtedly gain a better understanding of the function and relative importance of geography in government, industry, and academic activities. They could make comparisons and recognize the lack of depth of U.S. geographic work in its application to the public interest and the limited extent of basic theoretical work in the earth sciences. The lack of U.S. Government

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support to the geographic approach by comparison with their own status would become obvious if they were allowed to visit government offices. They might discern weaknesses in U.S. governmental research because of the failure at all times to apply geographic knowledge to political and military activities.

5. The geographic profession in the Soviet Union would gain increased recognition of its professional status, and this would materially aid the Soviets in their recent endeavors to establish themselves more firmly in international professional geographic circles.

C. Balance

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III. Scope

The proposal -- as defined in general terms by [REDACTED] and Etzel Percy in the documents supplied to this subcommittee, subject to more definition and minor refinements -- appears to provide an exchange situation [REDACTED]. The subcommittee feels that the greater the number of participants from the United States, up to a maximum of ten, the greater the value to be derived from our participation. We also favor an itinerary which would emphasize areas of [REDACTED] and to that end our suggested itinerary in the USSR differs slightly from the original proposal. We would not

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[REDACTED] groups. The proposed schedule of time seems restrictive from the point of view of maximum coverage [REDACTED]. We would encourage the negotiation of an itinerary based upon a 50-to-60 day span rather than the 45 days in the original proposal. In order that U.S. geographers derive maximum benefit from field observation, they should travel in the USSR anytime from May through the first two weeks of August. USSR geographers, to attend the meetings of the Association of American Geographers in Los Angeles, August 19-22, could arrive in the U.S. about the middle of August and stay through September and into October. The suggested itineraries are based on this timing.

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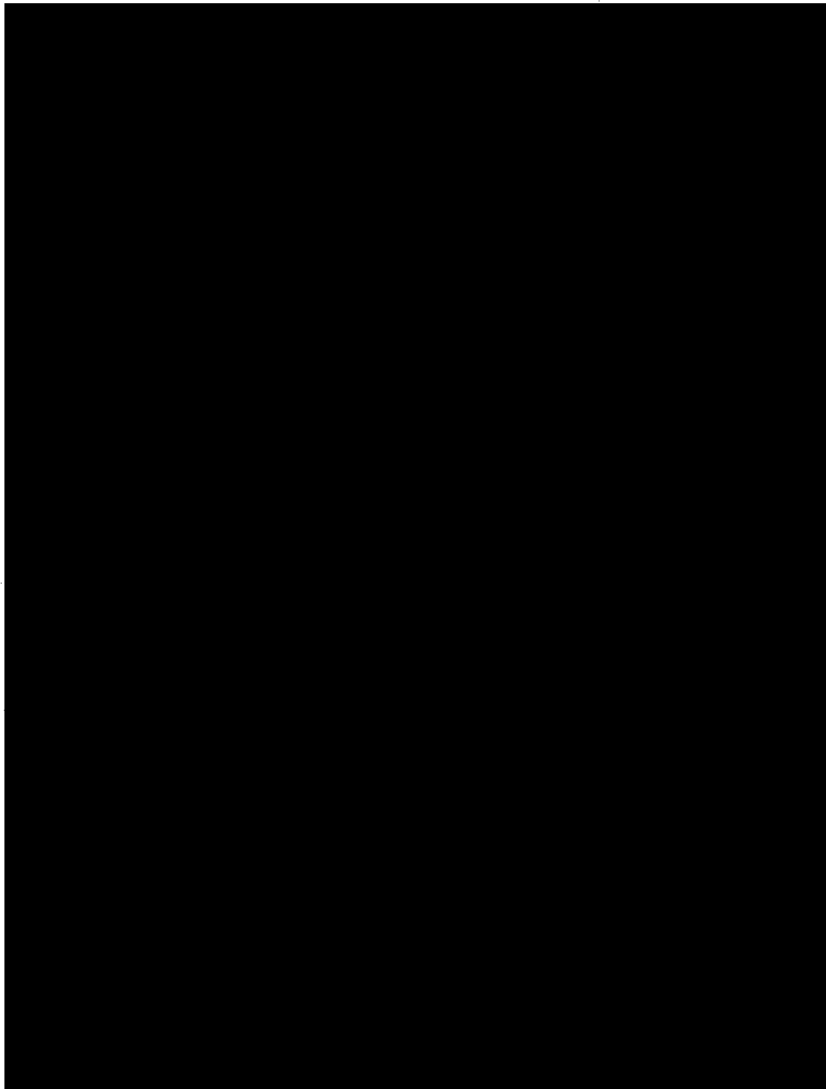
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IV. Personnel

We would encourage the selection of a delegation best able to accomplish the diversified objectives of such an exchange. The participants should be well known professionally by virtue of their research, publications, or other significant activity. The team should be constituted primarily from academic and research personnel. We should like to see several excellently qualified geographers from the U.S. Government named as participants. They are included in our suggested list which follows:

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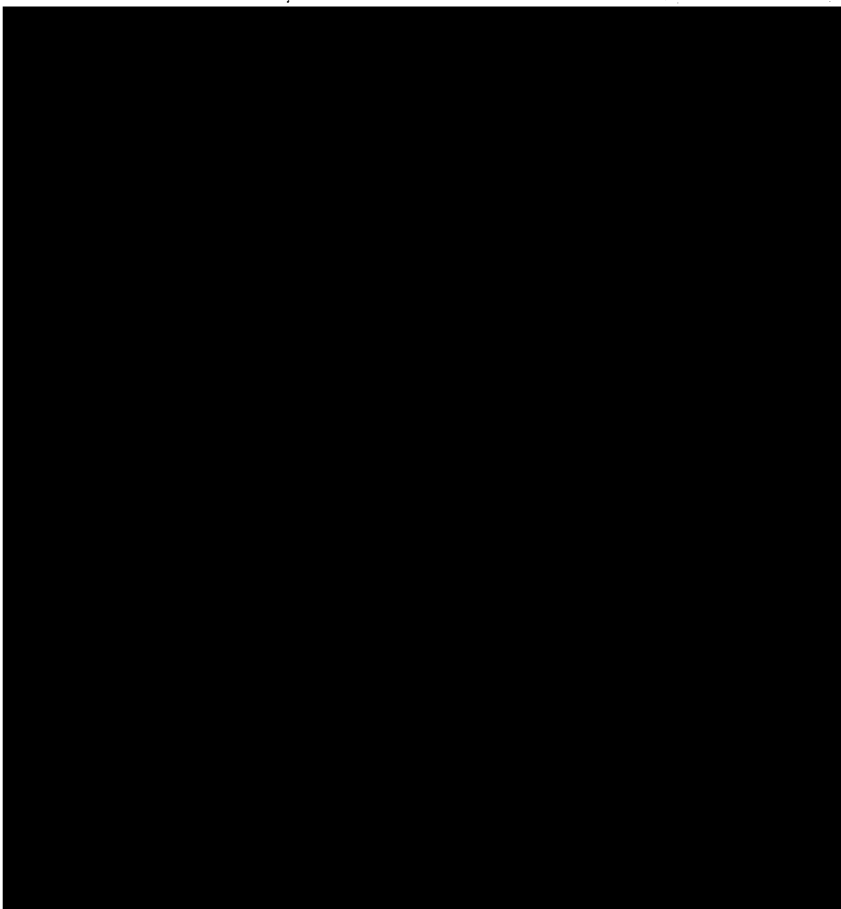


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V. Suggested Itinerary in the USSR*

MOSCOW..... 3 days
Main center of geographic research. Visit to universities, institutes, laboratories.

LENINGRAD AND BALTIC..... 4 days
Center of Arctic research, Northern Sea Route Administration, geographic research center.
Coastal areas.

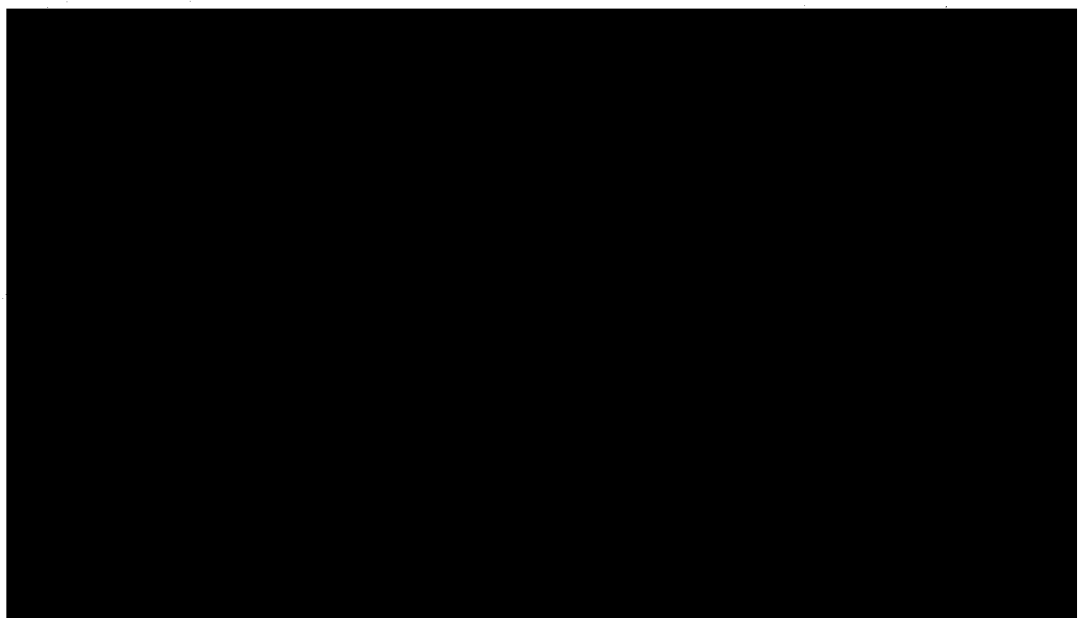
*Times given include travel time.

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New Lands Area in SIBERIA and KAZAKHSTAN..... 4 days
Large investment in area of recurring droughts.
[ALTERNATE AREA: The Caucasus -- 4 days.]

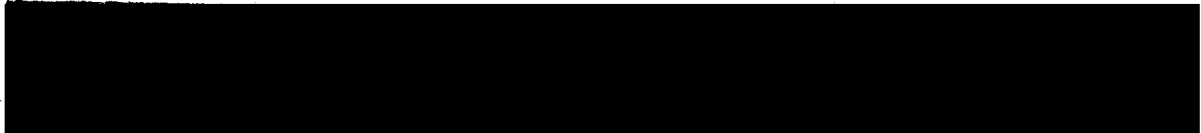
TASHKENT and SOVIET CENTRAL ASIA..... 6 days
Irrigation, cotton, deserts, mountain and glacial
research stations of the Academy of Sciences.

KIEV - DONETS..... 6 days
Ukrainian center of geographic research. Major
industrial area.

MOSCOW..... 4 days
Final visits and departure.

It should be noted that Moscow, Leningrad and Kiev have no
alternates named because the main centers of geographic work are there
and these cities will presumably, from the Soviet point of view, be a
"must" in any schedule.

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VI. Suggested Itinerary in the United States*

NEW YORK CITY (Arrival Point)..... 4 days

Urban geography of a great metropolis, including port facilities, community industries, mass transportation, and zonation. American Geographical Society. Department of Geography, Hunter College.

TRANSCONTINENTAL AIR TRAVEL, New York to Los Angeles..1 day
Daytime travel -- broad utilization patterns can often be observed from the air.

LOS ANGELES AND ENVIRONS..... 9 days

Annual Conference of the Association of American Geographers, August 19-22, at Santa Monica. Showplace of urbanization; special attention to trend in decentralization and vast extent because of individual homes. Highly developed road network in an automobile age. Intense agriculture: fruit and vegetables in an irrigated area. Department of Geography, UCLA.

SOUTHERN NEVADA - NORTHERN ARIZONA..... 5 days

Boulder Dam and Lake Meade. Grand Canyon of the Colorado.

DENVER..... 5 days

Federal programs for arid and semiarid regions. Great Plains and Rocky Mountain landscapes. Side trips to Estes Park, Big Thompson tunnel, etc.

CHICAGO..... 6 days

Tours of the city featuring merchandising, port facilities for inland waterways, urban redevelopment, steel mill, grain exchange, etc. Side trip west into a typical Corn Belt community. Department of Geography, University of Chicago. Department of Geography, Northwestern University.

*Times given include travel time, except for New York to Los Angeles air trip.

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- MADISON..... 4 days
Example of a small American city. Short side trips to see Dairy Belt agriculture and glacial topography. Department of Geography, University of Wisconsin.
- MINNEAPOLIS - ST. PAUL..... 5 days
Example of twin-city development; also flour milling center. Side trip west to typical Spring Wheat communities. Side trip north to Mesabi Iron Range, through lake-and-forest type of landscape.
- KANSAS CITY..... 4 days
Example of a typical mid-West city; stockyards and meat packing. Side trip west into Winter Wheat Region type of agriculture.
- HOUSTON..... 5 days
Example of rapidly growing city -- port, oil, grain, cotton. Side trip to East Texas oil field; also cotton belt type of economy. Example of Gulf Coast type of landscape and economy.
- TENNESSEE VALLEY (Knoxville as center)..... 6 days
Coordinated resource planning by a regional agency; water power, navigation, flood control, soil conservation, rural electrification, and recreation. Side trips to view the landscape of several types of Southeast U.S. regions: Great Valley, Southern Appalachians, Piedmont.
- WASHINGTON, D.C. 5 days
Federal geography programs, including resource use, reclamation service, agricultural research, cartography, and map reproduction. National Academy of Sciences and National Research Council. Library of Congress. Government Buildings.
- NEW YORK CITY (Point of departure).....1 day
Free time during day for shopping, sightseeing, etc., and leave in the evening.

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Suggested Alternates for Above Points

NEW YORK CITY

No alternate thought necessary other than shortening or lengthening of visit in the city.

LOS ANGELES

A visit to this city is imperative if geographers are to attend the Annual Meeting of the Association of American Geographers at Santa Monica for four days. Otherwise, visit to area could be shortened. Also, time could be taken from the Los Angeles area to visit Imperial Valley as an unusual agricultural region.

SOUTHERN NEVADA - NORTHERN ARIZONA

Alternate visit to southwestern Utah: striking high plateau topography including National Parks and typical small communities in the semi-arid Great Basin.

DENVER

Alternate visit to the Salt Lake City - Provo area as a classic example of irrigation in a semi-arid region. Also examples of faulted landforms.

CHICAGO

No complete alternative recommended. Length of stay could be limited to visits to the Departments of Geography at the University of Chicago and Northwestern University, and any tours arranged by courtesy of these institutions.

MADISON

Alternate stop in Omaha-Lincoln area as a Corn Belt center and for the importance of slaughter houses. Visit to the Department of Geography, University of Nebraska.

MINNEAPOLIS - ST. PAUL

Alternate visit to the Ohio River valley from Louisville to Cincinnati, with a side trip to the Blue Grass Region in Kentucky.

KANSAS CITY

Alternate visit to St. Louis as a Mississippi River metropolis with side trip to Memphis as a cotton-marketing center and example of delta land agriculture.

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HOUSTON

Alternate visit to Tulsa, example of modern urban development and as an oil and grain regional center. Side trip to an Oklahoma Oil District.

TENNESSEE VALLEY

Alternate visit to Birmingham as a classic example of an industrial center adjacent to the resources for manufacturing iron and steel. Also side trip to cotton lands and coniferous forests in the Deep South.

WASHINGTON, D.C.

No alternates recommended.

Other Alternate Areas of Geographic Interest

1. PHOENIX and the SALT RIVER VALLEY

Fast growing city in the American Southwest. Example of intensive irrigation development, including long staple cotton.

2. PITTSBURGH - CANTON

Example of a metropolis specializing in heavy industry. Industrial landscape in environs -- between Pittsburgh and Canton. Topography of the Alleghany Plateau.

3. PACIFIC NORTHWEST

[Note: The northwestern part of the U.S. was omitted from the preceding itinerary suggestions because of the impossibility of visiting all parts of the country in a limited amount of time. It could be substituted for one of the agricultural visits in the mid-West.]

The Seattle-Tacoma area and Puget Sound. Landscapes of the Pacific Northwest including the Cascade Mountains. Forestry resources, management, and operations. Possible side trip to the Grand Coulee to illustrate dry land reclamation. Department of Geography, University of Washington.

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